

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Terrorists, transnational criminal organizations, and others seeking to do this Nation harm are constantly coming up with new ways to cross our borders.

We used to rely on biographic information, such as names and birthdays, to identify and prevent these threats from entering our country. But the development of biometric identity-matching technology allows us to more quickly and effectively confirm people that they are who they say they are.

The use of biometric technology to positively identify individuals who seek entry into the United States is a 21st century solution to multiple homeland security problems. The technology enhances the security of our citizens, facilitates legitimate travel and trade, and bolsters the integrity of our immigration system.

My bill authorizes the Office of Biometric Identity Management, or OBIM, the primary biometric repository for DHS and other Federal agencies that are vital to our national security. OBIM operates a database of more than 225 million unique identities that include fingerprint-based biometrics, as well as face and iris holdings that allow it to provide biometric matching, storing, and sharing services across the U.S. Government.

It processes more than 300,000 daily biometric transactions, reviewing more than 360 known or suspected terrorist records for resolution on a daily basis.

OBIM also supports DHS's efforts to complete a biometric exit program. Putting this biometric exit system in place is, as the 9/11 Commission noted, "an essential investment in our national security." More than 15 years later, large numbers of foreign nationals continue to overstay their visas or disappear into the United States, just as four of the 9/11 hijackers did.

Congress has passed multiple laws since 2004 mandating the creation of the biometric exit system, though we are still waiting for it to come to fruition.

OBIM is responsible for a key element of our national security, but has not been authorized by statute. This bill, the Office of Biometric Identity Management Authorization Act of 2018, will finally codify this into law.

In the current high-risk threat environment, it is vital that we place greater emphasis on biometric identity technology as a counterterrorism tool

and provide OBIM with the resources necessary to further protect the homeland in the face of an evolving threat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5206, the OBIM Authorization Act of 2018.

First, I want to begin by commending the gentlewoman from Arizona for sponsoring this piece of legislation. It is very thoughtful and certainly very timely.

Of course, I am not surprised that she would come up with such a great idea, knowing that she originally hails from Rhode Island and comes from great roots. So I am not surprised that she would come up with a great idea like this.

Mr. Speaker, for the past decade, the Department of Homeland Security has collected biometric data from foreign nationals and U.S. citizens for a wide range of purposes, including counterterrorism, border security, credentialing, national security, and public safety.

Over that time, the Office of Biometric Identity Management, or OBIM, has become a repository for more than 240 million biometrics, such as fingerprints and photographs collected by DHS. OBIM is charged with analyzing biometric data, sending updates to critical terror watch lists, and sharing information with trusted partners inside and outside the Federal Government to support law enforcement, public safety, national security, and homeland security.

Given the sensitivity of this type of biometric data and its increasing integration into security programs, I am pleased that H.R. 5206 requires this office to comply with privacy policies and procedures established by the DHS privacy officer.

This is a good bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5206 authorizes the department's existing Office of Biometric Identity Management, which is charged with collecting and using biometric data to enhance DHS's counterterrorism, border security, and national security operations.

Increasingly, Federal agencies see the value of adopting biometrics as an additional security measure. As more and more Federal programs make use of such personal data, it is absolutely vital that privacy be baked in from the start. Importantly, H.R. 5206 requires a privacy-forward approach to all that OBIM does.

For these reasons, I support this measure. This is a good, bipartisan bill, and, again, I commend the gentlewoman from Rhode Island, who is now from Arizona, for sponsoring this bill and getting it through committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague from Rhode Island's support on this bill and our longstanding relationship that we had since we grew up in a similar neighborhood before I fell in love with Arizona and never wanted to see another winter again. But anyway, I digress.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5206, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5207) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the immigration advisory program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5207

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Immigration Advisory Program Authorization Act of 2018" or the "IAP Authorization Act of 2018".

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### "SEC. 419. IMMIGRATION ADVISORY PROGRAM.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized within U.S. Customs and Border Protection an immigration advisory program (in this section referred to as the 'program') for U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, pursuant to an agreement with a host country, to assist air carriers and security employees at foreign airports with review of traveler information during the processing of flights bound for the United States.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the program, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers may—

"(1) be present during processing of flights bound for the United States;

"(2) assist air carriers and security employees with document examination and traveler security assessments;

"(3) provide relevant training to air carriers, security employees, and host-country authorities;

"(4) analyze electronic passenger information and passenger reservation data to identify potential threats;

"(5) engage air carriers and travelers to confirm potential terrorist watchlist matches;

"(6) make recommendations to air carriers to deny potentially inadmissible passengers

boarding flights bound for the United States; and

“(7) conduct other activities to secure flights bound for the United States, as directed by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(C) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days before an agreement with the government of a host country pursuant to the program described in this section enters into force, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate with—

“(1) a copy of such agreement, which shall include—

“(A) the identification of the host country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into such agreement;

“(B) the location at which activities described in subsection (b) will be conducted pursuant to such agreement; and

“(C) the terms and conditions for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel operating at such location;

“(2) country-specific information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with such agreement;

“(3) an assessment of the impacts such agreement will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing;

“(4) information on the anticipated costs over the five fiscal years after such agreement enters into force associated with carrying out such agreement;

“(5) details on information sharing mechanisms to ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection has current information to prevent terrorist and criminal travel; and

“(6) other factors that the Commissioner determines necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of carrying out the program.

“(d) AMENDMENT OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before a substantially amended program agreement with the government of a host country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this section enters into force, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate—

“(1) a copy of such agreement, as amended; and

“(2) the justification for such amendment.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘air carrier’ and ‘foreign air carrier’ have the meanings given such terms in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (18), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (19) as paragraph (20); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following new paragraph:

“(19) carry out section 419, relating to the immigration advisory program; and”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 418 the following new item:

“Sec. 419. Immigration advisory program.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a major part of keeping the homeland safe is making sure we prevent bad actors from ever reaching our shores. In order to do this, we must continue to push out our borders with programs that utilize a combination of vetting and interviews conducted by experienced law enforcement agents.

The Customs and Border Protection Immigration Advisory Program, or IAP, accomplishes just that. The IAP program deploys specially trained CBP officers to major last-point-of-departure airports that offer direct flights to the United States. It is the responsibility of these officers to recommend that airlines do not allow foreign nationals who would be deemed inadmissible upon arrival or present a significant security threat to board an airplane bound for the United States.

This program enhances our national security by preventing high-risk individuals from boarding an airplane bound for our homeland. In fiscal year 2017, there were a total of 4,328 no-board recommendations made across 12 different IAP airport locations. IAP is especially important in countries with significant terrorist screening database hits.

The IAP program is not currently authorized by statute, but H.R. 5207, the Immigration Advisory Program Authorization Act of 2018, will finally codify this important safety and security program into law. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to please join me in supporting this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5207, the Immigration Advisory Program Authorization Act of 2018.

H.R. 5207 authorizes an important function within U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Immigration Advisory Program, or IAP. Under this program, CBP deploys officers to overseas airports to advise law enforcement partners about certain passengers before they board U.S.-bound flights. This important program seeks to essentially push out our borders to prevent travelers who may pose a threat to the U.S. from ever boarding an inbound flight.

Importantly, beyond simply authorizing the program, the bill requires CBP to notify Congress whenever a new agreement is put in place with a foreign partner. It also requires CBP to assess how the overseas deployment of

officers may affect officer coverage at U.S. ports of entry.

While I certainly appreciate the sacrifice made by officers serving abroad, I would note that this authorization is coming at a time when CBP has acknowledged that it is currently 4,000 officers short of what it needs to carry out current operations, both domestically and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, there is continued bipartisan support for CBP to push out our borders to prevent individuals who pose a threat to the U.S. from making their way here to our country. H.R. 5207 authorizes an existing DHS program that has proven helpful to our foreign partners in carrying out our shared interest of preventing terrorism, and it reduces the burden of deporting individuals who would be denied entry into the U.S. upon landing here.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman for sponsoring the bill. I support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for his support on this bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5207, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING THE ALLEGHANY LADY TROJANS ON THEIR STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Alleghany Lady Trojans softball team on winning North Carolina's A1 State championship.

These young women deserve the championship for their hard work and talent, but they are also champions of humility, giving gratitude to God, their parents, coaches, and the community fan base that supported them throughout their season.

Alleghany has a unique softball history, last winning State in 1996 as three-peat champions. Six of this year's team are related to past champions, which shows the passion and drive passed down from generation to generation.

Even Coach Weaver is a former State MVP, striving to instill in her team the determination and confidence that she developed as a high school athlete.

Congratulations to the Lady Trojans and the community that shares in this